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Appl. No.: 09/684,207
Amdt. filed August 13, 2004
Reply to Office action mailed April 13, 2004

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1-34. (Canceled)

35-42. (Withdrawn)

43-47. (Canceled)

48. (New) A method of authorizing one or more requested copies of all or part of a book comprising:

retrieving copyright information for authorizing copies of all or part of said book, wherein said copyright information is stored in a semiconductor device affixed to said book,

authorizing the requested copies if the retrieved copyright information indicates that the requested copies are authorized; and

updating the copyright information stored in said semiconductor device to reflect that the requested copies have been authorized.

49. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein said copyright information comprises counts data specifying a number of copies that can be authorized, and wherein said updating comprises reducing said counts data in dependence on requested and authorized copies.

50. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein said counts data further specifies a number of copies of said book, and/or copies of pages in said book, and/or copies of graphics in said book that can be authorized.

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51. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein said copyright information further comprises a user or license identity.

52. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein said steps of retrieving, authorizing, and updating are performed by a program that is executed by said semiconductor device.

53. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein said authorizing step further comprises said semiconductor device communicating externally a signal authorizing the requested copies.

54. (New) The method of claim 53 further comprising making the requested copies in response to said externally communicated signal.

55. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein said steps of retrieving, authorizing, and updating are performed by a program that is executed by a system external to said semiconductor device.

56. (New) The method of claim 55 wherein said retrieving and updating step further comprise said semiconductor device fetching and storing, respectively, all or part of said copyright information, and also communicating externally with said external system all or part of said copyright information.

57. (New) The method of claim 55 wherein said copyright information further comprises a World Wide Web address of said external system.

58. (New) A book comprising:
one or more pages having text and/or graphics, and

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an affixed semiconductor device comprising:

an updateable storage area that stores copyright information for authorizing copies of all or part of said book; and

a controller for communicating externally to said semiconductor device.

59. (New) The book of claim 58 wherein said copyright information comprises counts data specifying a number of copies that can be authorized.

60. (New) The book of claim 59 wherein said counts data further specifies a number of copies of said book, and/or copies of pages in said book, and/or copies of graphics in said book that can be authorized.

61. (New) The book of claim 58 wherein said copyright information further comprises a user or license identity.

62. (New) The book of claim 58 wherein an external system, in response to a request for one or more copies of part or all of said book,

communicates with said semiconductor device to retrieve all or part of said copyright information stored in said semiconductor device,

authorizes the requested copies if the retrieved copyright information indicates that the requested copies are authorized; and

communicates with said semiconductor device to update said copyright information stored in said semiconductor device to reflect that the requested copies have been authorized.

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63. (New) The book of claim 62 wherein said copyright information comprises counts data specifying a number of copies that can be authorized, and wherein said updating comprises reducing said counts data in dependence on requested and authorized copies.

64. (New) The book of claim 58 wherein said semiconductor device, in response to a request for one or more copies of all or part of said book, further

retrieves all or part of said stored copyright information,

communicates externally to said semiconductor device a signal authorizing the requested copies if the retrieved copyright information indicates that the requested copies are authorized; and

updates said stored copyright information to reflect that the requested copies have been authorized.

65. (New) The book of claim 64 wherein said copyright information comprises counts data specifying a number of copies that can be authorized, and wherein said updating comprises reducing said counts data in dependence on the requested and authorized copies.

66. (New) The book of claim 64 wherein said semiconductor device further comprises a storage area for all or part of the content of said book, said content being communicated externally in response to an authorized copy request.

67. (New) The book of claim 64 wherein an external copy station that, in response to a signal authorizing requested copies received from said semiconductor device,

retrieves the content of the requested copies, and

produces the requested copies from the retrieved content.

68. (New) The book of claim 67 wherein said semiconductor device further comprises a storage area for all or part of the content of said book, said content being externally communicated to said copy station.

69. (New) The book of claim 58 comprising a plurality of affixed semiconductor devices, each comprising an updateable storage area that stores copyright information for a section of said book.

70. (New) A book copying system comprising:

a book comprising:

one or more pages having text and/or graphics, and

an affixed semiconductor device comprising (i) an updateable storage area that stores copyright information for authorizing copies of all or part of said book and (ii) a controller for communicating externally to said semiconductor device, and for, in response to a request for one or more copies of part or all of said book,

retrieving all or part of said stored copyright information,

communicating externally to said semiconductor device a signal authorizing the requested copies if the retrieved copyright information indicates that the requested copies are authorized, and

updating said stored copyright information to reflect that the requested copies have been authorized; and

a copy station that can operatively communicate with said book for producing copies in response to said authorization signal.

71. (New) The system of claim 70 wherein said semiconductor device further comprises a storage area for all or part of the content of said book, said content being externally communicated to said copy station.

72. (New) The system of claim 70 wherein said copyright information comprises counts data specifying a number of copies that can be authorized, and wherein said updating comprises reducing said counts data in dependence on the requested and authorized copies.

73. (New) The system of claim 70 wherein said counts data further specifies a number of copies of said book, and/or copies of pages in said book, and/or copies of graphics in said book that can be authorized.

74. (New) The system of claim 70 wherein said copyright information further comprises a user or license identity.

75. (New) A computer readable medium containing instructions for causing a semiconductor device affixed to a book to perform the method of authorizing one or more requested copies of all or part of a book, said method comprising:

retrieving copyright information for authorizing copies of all or part of said book, wherein said copyright information is stored in a semiconductor device affixed to said book,

authorizing the requested copies if the retrieved copyright information indicates that the requested copies are authorized; and

updating the copyright information stored in said semiconductor device to reflect that the requested copies have been authorized.

76. (New) A book comprising an affixed device comprising a computer readable storage area that stores copyright information, said copyright information comprising data specifying a number of copies that can be authorized, and said storage area being updateable so that said data can be reduced in dependence on requested and authorized copies.

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77. (New) The book of claim 76 wherein said affixed device fetches and sends all or part of said stored copyright information to an external system and receives and stores updated copyright information from said external system, wherein said external system authorizes requested copies if the retrieved copyright information indicates that the requested copies are authorized and updates said copy right information in dependence on requested and authorized copies.

78. (New) The book of claim 76 wherein said affixed device retrieves all or part of said stored copyright information, communicates externally a signal authorizing one or more requested copies if the retrieved copyright information indicates that the requested copies are authorized, and stores copyright information updated in dependence on requested and authorized copies.

79 (New) A book comprising an affixed device comprising a computer readable storage area that stores copyright information for authorizing copies of all or part of said book, wherein said copyright information stored in said storage area can be updated in dependence on the requested and authorized copies.

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